

Hymn

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful CW 55



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
 2 God from true God, and Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
 On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



Refrain
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.
 Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711-86, alt.

Psalm 89

Leader: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;

All: with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

Leader: I will declare that your love stands firm forever,

Children: that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

**Morrison Zion
 Evangelical
 Lutheran Church**

Wisconsin Evangelical
 Lutheran Synod



Our mission is to
Glorify God
 as we
Gather
 around the Gospel
 to help people
Grow
 in the Gospel
 and
Go
 with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

Leader: You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

Congregation: I have sworn to David my servant, ‘I will establish your line forever

Children: and make your throne firm through all generations.”

Leader: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;

Congregation: love and faithfulness go before you.

Leader: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,

All: who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

Song by Children

A Holy Light

A holy light shines from a stable in little Bethlem.

Deep in the night the shadows flee at the dawn of heav’n

This Christmas night the Son of God is born.

And beaming bright across the sky gleam a thousand angels

Within their song the Word reveals what was long foretold:

The Son is giv’n for you - God’s peace from heav’n

Light eternal pierces the ages; hope from heaven calls to ev’ryone:

Bask in the warmth of God’s grace, And see forgiveness in the Savior’s face.”

This wondrous night, as angels sing of this glorious mystery.

Here in the hay the Lord reveals his Son.

He is the light! Jesus is the Promised One!

This wonderous night is born a holy light

A holy light shone from a stable in little Bethlem.

Deep in the night the shadows flee at the dawn of heav’n;

On Christmas night the Son of God was born.

And beaming bright across the years through the words of Scripture

The Spirit speaks revealing all that the Father planned

The Son is giv’n for you - God’s peace from heav’n

Light eternal pierces the ages; hope from heaven calls to ev’ryone:

Bask in the warmth of God’s grace, And see forgiveness in the Savior’s face.”

In sin’s dark night we look for hope in the midst of grief and pain

In Word each day, the Lord points to his Son.

He is the light! Jesus is the Promised One!

In darkest night we have this holy light

Kaiden Burch: It might seem unusual to think of Christmas as a dark and lonely time, but for many it is just that. Tree lights and the music of the season may mean little or perhaps nothing. The hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations can darken the holiday. For some people, when they look around, they have a hard time finding meaning in—to say nothing of the true meaning for—Christmas.

Even for us, the rush of the holiday season may dim the real light of Christmas. We may lose sight of the light, which gives way to darkness. And like everyone in this world, we walk in the darkness of sin.

Aubree Fischer: Sin is everywhere. It causes us to hate and hurt each other. It causes disease, war, and other acts of evil. It causes families to split apart at the seams. Eventually, it causes each and every one of us to die. We stumble daily because of sin's darkness. The prophet Isaiah put it this way:

Grades 7-8:We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes (Isaiah 59:9,10).

Our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God (Isaiah 59:12,13).

Mason Hagenow: Yes, sin affects all people of all time. No one can find the way to God because all are sinful. The psalmist David and the apostle John tell us:

Grades 7-8:All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one (Psalm 14:3).

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

Mason Hagenow: Sinners even love the darkness and by nature hide from God's light. Jesus tells us:

Grades 7-8: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed (John 3:19,20).

Mason Hagenow: By nature, we all find ourselves in the darkness of sin, hiding from God's light. Let us join together in confessing this to God.

Confession

Congregation: Almighty God, you created us to enjoy the light of your truth and life, but we have loved the darkness of sin. We have filled our lives with all kinds of evil. We cannot even count our sins, and by our inherited nature we try to hide from

you. For these sins we are guilty and deserve to be condemned. But we appeal to your mercy. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

Absolution

Ethan Hassemer: God knew that we were lost in the darkness of sin and death. But he did not leave us lost, hopeless, and terrified. He sent light to shine in our darkness that we would be forgiven and saved. The light from heaven is Jesus Christ, God's only Son. He came into our world to be the light of God's forgiveness. Because of Jesus' perfect life and death for us, God declares that we are not condemned for our sins. Rejoice! Your sins are forgiven!

Hymn by Grades 7- 8

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice CW 34

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!
- 3 Now through his Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned Through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Part 2

The Light Comes into the Darkness

Kassidy Hutjens: Tonight we celebrate the light sent from heaven at the birth of Jesus our Savior. Before the beginning of time, God planned to send his one and only Son. Jesus would come to make his home in the darkness among the lost.

The light from heaven had been promised many times before he actually appeared. Prophecies gave a glimmer of light to God's ancient people. The prophet Isaiah wrote this about the coming Messiah:

Grades 3-4: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:2).

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Elizabeth Laabs: Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, prophesied several months before the birth of the coming Savior:

Grades 3-4: The rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace (Luke 1:78,79).

Elizabeth Laabs: Let's recall how God sent the light into this dark world as we read together from Luke chapter 2:

Grades 3 & 4 : In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2:1-7)

Grades 3-4

Here in the Dark

1. Into darkness, into shadows, into gloom so dark and deep,
Came the Son of God the Father tiny child; we watch him sleep.
Baby Jesus, Son of heaven, shine your love so there!
Here in the dark the only light is you!
2. Into darkness, into shadows, to the world the Savior came.
Hearts were waiting on the promise life would never be the same.
Light would shine in hearts so blinded; love would come to be.
Here in the dark the baby Jesus see.
3. Brightened darkness, fleeing shadows greet the dawning of the day!
Watch in wonder, watch in silence; Jesus came to be the way.
Hear the promise of the ages; see him in the stall!
Here in the dark he came to save us all.

Henry Laabs: Lights are part of our Christmas celebration. We know it is coming when strings of lights begin to shine in homes and yards in the weeks preceding Christmas. God adorned the heavens with light on that first Christmas long ago when glorious angels appeared in the skies above Bethlehem.

Grades 1-2: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified (Luke 2:8,9).

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12).

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, (Luke 2:13)

4K-Grade 2: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).

Grades 1- 2: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger (Luke 2:15,16).

Henry Laabs: The shepherds believed the words of the angels and found everything they announced to be true. They were the first to behold the light of the world that God had sent. With their eyes they saw the baby Jesus. With their hearts they saw their Savior.

Grades 1-2

Angels from the Realms of Glory CW 80:1-2

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Once you sang creation’s story;
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing —
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Emeline Ruddat: In our day, God does not reveal his saving truths in the glorious light of angel messengers. But he still adorns the world with light—the light of his precious Word of Truth in the Bible. The writer of Psalm 119, the longest psalm in the Bible, puts it this way:

4K- 5K: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:105,130).

Emeline Ruddat: Like the shepherds, we believe this Word, and with eyes of faith, we also see Jesus in the manger and know him to be our Savior.

Congregation

Silent Night CW 60



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from
God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.
Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

4K- 5K:Glory beaming from above—Angels singing of God’s love; Come and see the baby small. Who has come to save us all. Worship here this Christmas night—Baby Jesus is the light.

4K & 5K

Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

Part 4

We Too Are Lights

Olivia Scheider: The excitement of seeing the holy light sent from heaven in our Savior Jesus was evident on the very night he was born. It is especially clear in the actions of the shepherds after they had seen the baby in the manger.

Grades 5- 6:When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them (Luke 2:17,18).

Olivia Scheider: Like the shepherds, generations before us have shared this good news so that now we too have heard what God has said concerning this child. Jesus became one of us. He lived a holy life. He died to pay the price for our sins. He rose from the dead, securing victory over death for us. And he ascended to the glory of heaven where he rules forever. Everything in Jesus’ life happened just as the Scriptures promised! Jesus proclaimed himself to be the light for all to follow. John writes:

Grades 5- 6: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should

stay in darkness (John 12:46).

Brooke Van Rossum: The greatest gift found in the light of Jesus is our redemption from sin and death. Even when we were lost in spiritual darkness, God rescued us. Jesus explained this most clearly to Nicodemus when he said:

4K-Grade8: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Brooke Van Rossum: Believers in Jesus not only enjoy the brilliant light of Jesus, they become lights that reflect his light. Through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit moves us to shine in this world of darkness as we point others to the true light of our Savior. Jesus tells us:

Grades 5-6: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house (Matthew 5:14,15).

Congregation: In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Audrey Zirbel: We have seen the light of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Every year we celebrate his birth and anticipate his return again. He truly is the promised light from God. And now he calls us to be lights in this world. Through our words and actions, we draw many to God's holy light that they may believe in him and be saved.

Grades 5- 6

See in Yonder Manger Low

- 1 See in yonder manger low, Born for us on earth below,
See—the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.

Refrain: Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

- 2 Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim.

Refrain

- 3 Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this.

Refrain

- 4 Teach, oh, teach us, holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee In thy sweet humility.

Refrain

Responsive reading from John 1

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Children: He was with God in the beginning.

Leader: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Congregation: In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

Children: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

Congregation: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

All: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Offering

Prayer

Shine forth, dear Jesus, Light of the world, on all who walk in darkness. Grant us your grace to be your torchbearers telling the world of your love. Open the eyes of all to see your light and follow you to eternal glory. We ask this for your love's sake, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Hymn

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.